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Advisory Announcement

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2027 TOGIAK GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL

The 2027 Togiak herring guideline harvest level is 19,038 short tons. This was set by applying a 12% harvest rate to the long-term median of aerial survey biomass estimates (1981–2024) with confidence ratings greater than 0.25 (158,650 short tons, 95% confidence interval: 97,902–319,590 short tons). This is the same median population size provided for the 2026 GHL. The Togiak District sac roe and spawn-on-kelp fishery and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery harvest allocations are listed below. The gear group allocation specified in the *Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan* 5AAC 27.865(b)(5) is 70% purse seine and 30% gillnet in the Togiak District. The following represents the allocations and quotas based on current regulations and a 12% exploitation rate.

Table 1.–The 2027 Togiak District Pacific herring biomass and harvest forecast and allocation by fishery and gear.

	Biomass (Short Tons)	Harvest (Short Tons)
Biomass Estimate	158,650	
Guideline Harvest Level (12% exploitation rate)		19,038
Togiak Spawn on Kelp Fishery (Fixed Allocation)		1,500
Remaining Allowable Harvest		17,538
Dutch Harbor Food/Bait Allocation (7% of remaining allocation)		1,228
Togiak District Sac Roe Fishery		16,310
Purse Seine Allocation (70%)		11,417
Gillnet Allocation (30%)		4,893

The Togiak herring stock was assessed using a statistical catch-at-age (SCAA) model from 1992 to 2022. However, in years 2023 through 2026, there was no commercial gillnet or purse seine sac roe harvest of Togiak herring, precluding biological sampling and use of the SCAA model. Since 1978, this marks the fourth consecutive year without sac roe harvest or biological sampling, the fifth consecutive year without gillnet harvest, and the second year without aerial surveys. Herring biological samples are fishery-dependent, and with no fishery conducted in 2023, 2024, 2025, or 2026, there were no samples with which to estimate the age and weight composition of the stock for the assessment. Therefore, instead of the SCAA model, the long-term median (1981–2024) of aerial survey biomass estimates with a confidence rating of greater than 0.25 was used to set harvest limits for 2027. Recognizing that harvest rate strategy evaluations have not been completed for Togiak herring in over 20 years, the department has established a maximum harvest rate of 15%. With no new assessment data from 2026, the harvest rate for 2027 decreased to 12% because of increasing uncertainty in stock biomass.